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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01
L-03 H-02 PA-02 /170 W
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R 191652Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2292
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC, GENERAL DEBATE

1. JULY 12 GENERAL DEBATE CONTINUED WITH STATEMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF ALL FIVE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

2. ECLA: LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE HAS HAD INTERNAL ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONG WITH CUTS IN INFLATION DURING 1977. THERE WERE ALSO REDUCTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL DEBTS, AS WELL AS A $10 BILLION POSITIVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. BUT THIS SUCCESS IN SOME CASES CAME AT THE COST OF PAY CUTS AND LOSS OF JOBS. MOREOVER, LATIN AMERICA'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS HAS GROWN BECAUSE EARLIER INDUSTRIALIZATION IS NOW BEGINNING TO PAY OFF. LATIN AMERICA IS INTERESTEDLY WATCHING THE TALKS AMONG THE GREAT INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. LATIN AMERICA IMPORTS AS MUCH FROM THE US AS THE EEC DOES AND THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS JAPAN DOES. MAJOR ECONOMIC POWERS MUST REMEMBER THAT INTERDEPENDENCE MUST BE A TWO-WAY
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STREET; THE RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONISM IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE LATINS. MOREOVER, IF LDCS ARE TO ACHIEVE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO ACCELERATE THEIR IMPORTS AND THAT IN TURN WILL DEPEND ON THEIR BEING ABLE TO ACCELERATE THEIR EXPORTS. THERE IS A NEED TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS REGARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIEO, ESPECIALLY AT THE

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CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND TCDC. A REGIONAL APPROACH IS A NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO THE GLOBAL APPROACH. ECLA, THEREFORE, BELIEVES IN SOME DECENTRALIZATION OF THE UN. HERE THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HAVE IMPORTANT ROLES TO PLAY.

3. ECA: AFRICA HAS ON THE WHOLE FALLEN SHORT OF THE 6 PERCENT GROWTH RATE TARGETED FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT DECADE. THERE WAS A LITANY OF SAD STATISTICS AND A DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL PROBLEMS AFRICAN ECONOMY FACES. NIEO MUST BE A FUNDAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING, NOT A "FACE LIFT". FOR AFRICANS, RESTRUCTURING MUST LARGELY BEGIN AT HOME AND REQUIRES MORE THAN A MECHANICAL CHECKLIST OF THINGS THAT ARE WRONG AND A LIST OF CORRECTIVES. SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF ADVANCED ECONOMICS IS UNLIKELY WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUS SOLUTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THIRD WORLD. SOLUTION OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROBLEMS GOES FAR BEYOND AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS FOR AFRICAN EXPORTS TO DEVELOPED ECONOMY MARKETS, OR LARGE SUPPLIES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE OBTAINED THROUGH TRADE OR CREDIT. THE THESIS THAT TRADE (OR AID) CAN SINGLE-HANDEDLY ENABLE MASSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS NO LONGER CREDIBLE. RATHER, AFRICA NEEDS ASSISTANCE DIRECTED TOWARD THE AMELIORATION OF FACTORS THAT NOW PERPETUATE AFRICA'S CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON ECONOMIC FORCES OUTSIDE AFRICA;
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THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD ALTER THE AMOUNTS, BALANCE AND CHARACTER OF FACTORS THAT FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECT DEVELOPMENT AND THE ECONOMIC GROWTH PROCESS. FLUCTUATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SYSTEM MAKE DEBT ONE OF TODAY'S FASTEST GROWTH INDUSTRIES.

4. ESCAP: THERE HAS BEEN OVERALL GROWTH IN GNP AND IMPROVEMENT OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION IN DEVELOPING ASIAN STATES. THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS CAN, HOWEVER, BE CONSIDERED IMPROVEMENTS ONLY IN COMPARISON WITH THE DISMAL PERFORMANCE THAT TOOK PLACE EARLIER IN THE DECADE. CURRENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IS STILL BELOW DEVELOPMENT DECADE TARGETS. ECONOMIC CONCERNS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE LED TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES THAT COVER INTER ALIA PRODUCTS THAT MANY ESCAP MEMBER STATES PRODUCE, ESPECIALLY TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL AND ENGINEERING GOODS. THIS IN COMBINATION WITH POTENTIAL WEATHER FLUCTUATIONS THAT WILL HARM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MAY LEAD TO SUDDEN CRISES THAT MAY REQUIRE SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS. NIEO REQUIRES ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH INCREASED SELF-RELIANCE AND SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF FULFILLING BASIC NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE,

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EFFECTING A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND WEALTH, INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY (ESPECIALLY THE POOR) IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AND EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO BE AN EFFECTIVE INPUT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, REGION-SPECIFIC STRATEGIES SHOULD BE AMENABLE TO BEING TRANSLATED INTO GLOBAL-LEVEL ACTION. THIS REQUIRES A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS ON NEGOTIATIONS IN THE INTER-NATIONAL FORA AND THEIR BEARING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION. THIS REQUIRES CLOSER COORDINATION AMONG ALL UN ORGANS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY ECOSOC AND GA

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INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
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DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS. AS REGARDS DECENTRALIZATION, UNDP HAS AGREED SINCE 1974 TO DESIGNATE THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AS EXECUTING AGENCIES OF UNDP. SEVERAL PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DECENTRALIZED TO ESCAP. WHEN REQUESTED TO EXECUTE PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE, FULL AUTHORITY SHOULD BE DELEGATED AND ADEQUATE BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS MADE TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

5. ECE: EUROPE HAS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA OF EUROPE MAY BE VIEWED AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLDS. ECE RECEIVED A MAJOR IMPULSE FROM CSCE AND HAS BECOME THE MAIN INSTRUMENT FOR MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. THE YEAR'S DEVELOP-MENTS INCLUDE A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ENERGY QUESTIONS, OVERALL

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ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, TRADE AND TRANSPORT. ECE IS RESPONDING TO CHANGING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE BY SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN EAST-WEST ECONOMIC COOPERATION. EAST-WEST TRADE SHOULD BE PLACED ON A MORE STABLE LONG-TERM BASIS. EAST-WEST INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE COOPERATION MUST BE EXPANDED TO COVER SYSTEMATIC SPECIALIZATION
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IN PRODUCTION. ONLY A LONG-TERM ORIENTATION TOWARD SPECIALIZATION CAN GIVE A SOLID BASIS TO EXPANSION OF THIS TRADE.

6. ECWA: THE PRESENTATION CONTAINED NO DIRECT MENTION OF ISRAEL. RATHER, FOCUS WAS ON DISJUNCTION BETWEEN REGION'S RESOURCES (A LA OPEC) AND THE OVERWHELMING NEEDS OF SOME OF THE NON-OIL PRODUCING STATES OF THE AREA. THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, BEYOND ECWA PROGRAMS, ARE INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE SO THAT INTERNATIONAL FUNDING BEYOND THAT OF REGIONAL OPEC MEMBERS IS REQUIRED. ECWA IS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE NEEDS OF EGYPT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NEXT BIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES. ECWA PROMISES ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH GOE AND WITH ECA REGARDING EGYPT. "NATURALLY, IF EGYPT'S NEEDS INVOLVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, APPROPRIATE STEPS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO SECURE THE NECESSARY FUNDS."
7. US DEL IS POUCHING COPIES OF THESE SPEACHES TO DEPARTMENT, IO/DHP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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